



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 305163

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	19/11/2004
Inspector Name	Rachel Ruth Britten

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Little Lache Playgroup
Setting Address	Poplar Road Chester Cheshire CH4 8EY

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Little Lache Playgroup
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Little Lache Playgroup
Address	Old Community Centre Poplar Road Chester Cheshire CH4 8EY

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care. When making judgements, inspectors have regard to how well the provider meets the National Standards for under Eights Day Care and Childminding. A list of these is attached. The report identifies strengths and areas for improvement.

This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

Information about the setting

Little Lache Playgroup was founded in 1972 and is run by a voluntary committee. The group have been operating from the current purpose built premises since 1998. The playgroup is situated in the heart of the Lache Estate and provides sessional care, Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 12 noon, for a maximum of 40 children aged from two and a half to statutory school age. The children have access to a playgroup room; an activity room; painting area; foyer and toilet facilities. There is also access to a large enclosed outdoor play area and nature area. The supervisor has been the only paid member of staff for the past 16 years and has an in-depth knowledge of the local community and families who use the playgroup. The remaining adults help out on a voluntary basis.

Children attending mainly live in the local community and all speak English as their first language. There are currently no children attending who have been identified as having special educational needs. The playgroup are a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

How good is the Day Care?

Overall the sessional care is judged to be satisfactory.

The organisation of the care is satisfactory with one paid member of staff working with a number of parent volunteers to ensure good adult/child ratios. However, evidence of vetting is unavailable for some of these. Documentation is well organised, although policies and procedures are minimal, with some required policies not yet formulated. There are no written activity plans, daily routines, or written information for volunteers, although children's details, daily registers and work files are in order. The organisation of the indoor and outdoor environments is good. The toys and equipment are good, with welcoming, varied, well set out activity areas and well organised, accessible storage.

The safety and care of children is satisfactory. Staff are vigilant during sessions to minimise hazards and to maintain health and hygiene standards. However, written permission is needed for any medications that may need to be administered. Meals and snacks are healthy and nutritious and children's particular needs are attended to. Staff's knowledge and training in child protection is minimal.

The quality of the activities is good and children are enjoying the stimulating

atmosphere. They behave well and receive clear boundaries with plenty of praise and encouragement. Children are encouraged to socialise and spend group time as well as having opportunities to learn on a one to one basis. They are all included and are given help according to their individual needs.

Partnership with parents is good. It is based upon community involvement in staffing, administering and fund raising for the group. Parents express confidence and commitment in the leadership and are pleased with the progress their children make both in learning and in social skills. A small leaflet introduces the playgroup and the children's work sheets are available to discuss with the supervisor at any time.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Ten actions were raised at the Transitional Inspection in September 2002.

Eight of these related to policies and procedures, of which six have been completed as follows:

A risk assessment from the P.L.A is used annually to identify risks and deal with them effectively; a complaints procedure has been added to the parent booklet giving details of Ofsted as required; a behaviour management statement has been devised and added to the parent booklet which covers the required details; a non smoking policy has been added to the policy booklet; a medication policy has been devised; and an incident record book has been made ready to note any significant incidents.

Two policies have yet to be evolved and added to the parent booklet. These are a sick children policy and a child protection policy. Both of these should be devised in accordance with the National Standards and made available to staff and parents. They are raised in the actions and recommendations arising from this inspection.

The action to maintain a register system which shows children and staff attendance, including arrival and departure times, is being managed using a wall mounted signing in card system, which could be improved to show attendance with a time rather than a tick.

The tenth action related to staff knowledge of child protection issues and possible symptoms of children at risk. Some up to date information is on file for staff to read, but no staff have accessed any training in this area and the policy has not yet been evolved - see actions arising from this inspection.

Overall, the actions taken ensure an improvement in the procedures of the playgroup and ensures that more information is given to parents about their children's care. Further actions when completed, will further improve the service to children.

What is being done well?

- The environment is modern, warm, welcoming, and well maintained both

indoors and out, enjoying large outdoor play facilities including a nature woodland area, as well as large, versatile indoor space.

- The toys, equipment and furniture are plentiful, in good condition, varied, versatile, and accessibly stored so that children are stimulated and interested in their play. Ride on toys, dressing up and role play equipment are used to good effect.
- Paid and parent volunteer staff work together to provide a high adult to child ratio and involve themselves in talking, questioning, responding and listening to children, so that they are eager to take part and make progress.
- Parents are included very actively in the running of the playgroup and the fundraising for it, and are committed to its work. They express confidence in the leadership and in the "excellent work; enduring kindness; good supervision; attention to personal care needs; advice on how to extend children's learning at home; and teaching of alphabet, songs and numbers" that children receive.
- The provision of clear boundaries, balanced with praise and encouragement are promoting a happy atmosphere where children are behaving well.

What needs to be improved?

- the child protection, sick child, and lost/uncollected child policies, so that these are written to include all the details required by the National Standards and are used to inform staff and parents in running the playgroup
- the vetting procedures, so that vetting is completed upon all regular committee and parent helpers and evidence available for inspection
- the written parent consents to medication administration, so that these are on file when a child starts and if named medicine needs to be administered, this can be done without delay
- the written information about the daily activities and structure of the sessions, so that parent helpers are better informed about the purpose of activities and so that continuity of care can be provided if the person in charge is away.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to record.

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.

As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

The Registered Person must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
2	Ensure that you evolve a lost and uncollected children policy and that this is made available to parents.	19/12/2004
13	Ensure that you evolve a child protection policy stating all the information required by National Standard 13 and that you make this available to parents and staff.	19/12/2004

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
1	Ensure that vetting is satisfactorily completed upon all staff, including DC2 and CRB application forms being submitted to Ofsted for processing.
7	Ensure that written parent permission is obtained and kept on file where a child may need the administration of named medication such as inhalers, so that these can be given if the need arises.
7	Evolve a sick children policy and ensure that this is communicated to parents.
14	Consider whether providing written activity plans, daily routines and information for volunteers, would make sessions more understandable and purposeful for children, staff and parents.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS

STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON

Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.

STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION

The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.

STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY

The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.

STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.

STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT

Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.

STANDARD 6 - SAFETY

The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.

STANDARD 7 - HEALTH

The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.

STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK

Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.

STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.

STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)

The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is

proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.

STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR

Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.

STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.

STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION

The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.

STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION

Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.